MARC SILVESTRI - ARIF PRIANTO

BOOK ONE

DC BLACK LABEL

BATMAN & THE JOKER

THE DEADLY DUO

AGES 17+

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DC'S PAST—AND FUTURE—WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN!

THE NEW GOLDEN AGE

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A 48-page one-shot special

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DC

November

STORY AND ART

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ARIF PRIANTO

LETTERS

TROY PETERI

SPECIAL THANKS TO

MATT HAWKINS

SPECIAL THANKS TO

BRIDGET SILVESTRI

C'MON, DUDE, SERIOUSLY? FOR THE *LAST* TIME, *SIT!*

CUTE AND DUMB...STORY'A MY LIFE...

IF I WAS A RAT, I'D PROBABLY DATE YOU.

HERE.

NICE TO SEE YOU MAKING FRIENDS...

THEN AGAIN, YOUR COMMON GENUS *RATTUS* ***DOES*** ENJOY THE COMPANY OF ITS OWN KIND. SPEAKING OF WHICH...

...DO YOU ***REALLY*** THINK ***HE'LL*** COME FOR YOU?

AND WHEN WE'RE DONE, WE'RE GONNA ***CHOP*** YA INTA KIBBLE, AND ***FEED*** YOUR LOSER ASS TO ALL MY LITTLE PALS.

OH, ***HARLEY.*** WELL...

OH, YOU ***BETCHA!*** MY PUDDIN'S GONNA COME BUSTIN' IN HERE LIKE A PASTY-FACED RAMBO AND FILL YOUR STUPID NOGGIN WITH LEAD... THEN HE'LL SWEEP ME UP IN HIS ARMS AND WE'LL MAKE OUT LIKE CRAZY, FOR HOURS AND HOURS.

"...I GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT, WON'T WE?"

SO DISPATCH GETS A FEW CALLS ABOUT A BUNCH OF SCREAMING AND YELLING, NOT UNUSUAL FOR THE AREA.

THE BOWERY.

THEN CALLS COME IN ABOUT ***GUNSHOTS.*** ALSO, NOT UNUSUAL.

BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, "UNUSUAL" DOESN'T QUITE CUT IT.

THE DECEASED WAS ONE ***RYAN LANG.*** FORMER PD. NEIGHBORS SAID HE RARELY HAD VISITORS AND PRETTY MUCH KEPT TO HIMSELF.

LOOKS LIKE HE WAS TUCKED IN FOR A LONELY NIGHT OF ***SOLITAIRE...***

...BUT MAYBE NOT ***SO*** ALONE, EH?

HARVEY BULLOCK IS A GOOD COP.

ANYWAY, THE PERP GOT WHAT HE WANTED AND FLED THE SCENE. ELEVATOR WASN'T THERE BUT SINCE HE JUST MURDERED AN EX-COP, HE WAS PROBABLY IN A HURRY SO DIDN'T WAIT.

KEEP IN MIND, THAT'S A ***FIVE-STORY*** DROP.

GOTHAM HAS TEETH THAT CAN SOMETIMES GNAW THE GOOD RIGHT OUT OF A MAN...BUT NOT BULLOCK. NOT YET.

WITNESS ON THE STREET SAID HE SAW A TALL, SKINNY DUDE WITH A ***WHITE FACE*** RUNNING OUT OF THE BUILDING AND HOLDING WHAT HE ***THINKS*** WAS A BOWLING BALL.

KINDA HARD TO TELL, BUT I DON'T SEE ANY BOWLING TROPHIES.

MOST OF HIM IS SCATTERED AROUND THE APARTMENT. ***THAT'S*** THE BIGGEST PIECE RIGHT THERE. BUT...

...WE HAVEN'T FOUND THE HEAD.

SO, THE "BOWLING BALL..."

S'WHAT I'M THINKIN', YEAH.

NO ***CUT MARKS*** ON THE BODY...

...WOUNDS INDICATE HE WAS ***PULLED*** APART.

LANG GOT OFF FIVE SHOTS.

HE WAS EX-S.W.A.T. EXPERT SHOOTER. HARD TO BELIEVE HE COULD MISS AT THIS RANGE.

HE ***DIDN'T.***

MAGNUM ROUND WOULD DO A LOT OF DAMAGE. FROM THE LOOKS OF THE BLOOD SPATTER PATTERN, IT DID. AND YET HE MANAGED TO GET AWAY.

WHITE SKIN. GREEN HAIR. BONE. LOOKS LIKE A SKULL FRAGMENT. SURVIVED A HEADSHOT.

PEACHY. AND THEN OF COURSE THERE'S ***THIS...***

GORDON PICKED A HELL OF A TIME TO GO FLY-FISHING.

BREEP BREEP

BULLOCK.

IN PROGRESS? WHERE?

HEY, THERE'S A...

...OKAY, I'LL, AH... JUST MEET YOU THERE, THEN.

BATMAN & THE JOKER

THE DEADLY DUO

ALL I'M SAYIN' IS THAT IT'S ONE OF ***US*** UP THERE, ***WE*** SHOULD BE RUNNIN' THE SHOW, ***NOT*** GORDON'S ***PET BAT***...

?

...WHADDAYA SAY, ***BLIX***? AM I RIGHT OR AM I RIGHT?

BLIX, YOU STILL WITH US?

!

THERE ARE STILL GOOD COPS IN THIS CITY...

...COPS LIKE BULLOCK AND GORDON, WHO BELIEVE THAT WHAT THEY DO ***MATTERS***--AND WHAT THEY ***DON'T*** DO MATTERS JUST AS MUCH.

DETECTIVE BLIX AND HIS CRONIES ***AREN'T*** THOSE COPS.

I PULL OUT OF MY DIVE A FEW FEET LOWER THAN NECESSARY.

DICK OFTEN POINTS OUT THAT I LACK A SENSE OF HUMOR...

HEY! MY ***HAIR!***

ALL UNITS IN THE VICINITY, BE ADVISED OF A DISTURBANCE AT THE **CANAL ST. STATION** APARTMENTS...

CLARK KENT IS SUPERMAN

...SUSPECT IS DESCRIBED AS A TALL MALE HAVING WHITE SKIN...

...AND GREEN HAIR.

FRANK MILLER HERE

CHAPTER ONE

THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY

WELL, POO...

MRRORRWWW

SORRY, FELLAS, LOOKS LIKE GOTHAM'S GLITTERATI ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT.

A STORM'S COMING...

"...AND WE DON'T WANT TO GET WET."

EVEN THE MOST BASIC ORGANISMS WILL RECOGNIZE PAIN AND ALTER THEIR BEHAVIOR ACCORDINGLY.

THE JOKER'S PATHOLOGY DOESN'T ALLOW FOR THIS...

...IN HIS TWISTED PSYCHE, PAIN AND INJURY SIMPLY DON'T REGISTER.

HUMANS FEEL PAIN...AND THE JOKER SHARES LITTLE IN COMMON WITH HUMANITY.

BUT EVEN ***HE*** COULDN'T SURVIVE A MAGNUM SLUG TO THE HEAD.

KKRESSHH

THUD

HHHHHHHHHH...

THIS ***ISN'T*** JOKER...

BUT WHOEVER HE IS, HE HANDLED A FOUR-STORY FALL LIKE HE WAS STEPPING OFF A CURB.

DON'T WAIT FOR HIS ***NEXT*** MOVE...

...FIRE THE ***BOLAS*** AND TAKE CONTROL OF THE FIGHT.

ENGAGE ***COMBAT EJECT.***

Combat eject in two...one...

EJECT.

BALLISTIC NYLON THREADED WITH CARBON FIBER FILAMENT. WAYNE-TECH DESIGNED THIS MATERIAL TO CATCH HYPERSONIC JETS LANDING ON AIRBORNE CARRIERS.

I USE IT FOR OTHER THINGS.

WHAM

THE HIT SHOULD SHATTER HIS JAW AND PUT HIM DOWN...

...IT DOES NEITHER.

HE'S FAST...

...AND STRONG.

WHUDD

FIVE SECONDS IN...

...AND I'M FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE.

NEED TO CREATE SOME DISTANCE...

SHKT

...GET THE UPPER HAND.

SHUNK!

KRAK!

I FEEL A BONE BREAK...

NOT HIS.

KLUD

CRUNCH

HHHHHHSSSSSS...

SHLUK!

THE *HEADS* MEAN SOMETHING TO HIM...

...I NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT.

POK

TARGET MARKED...

SPAT

THOOF THOOF THOOF THOOF

...AND THE *VAMPIRES* ARE LAUNCHED, PROGRAMMED TO ENGAGE WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE.

STANDARD-ISSUE POLICE *TASERS* DISCHARGE BETWEEN THREE AND FIVE MILLIAMPS.

THAT KIND OF POWER WILL INCAPACITATE ANYONE.

EACH INDIVIDUAL VAMPIRE DRONE CAN GENERATE UP TO *TEN MILLIAMPS*...

I HIT HIM WITH ALL *FOUR*.

FZZZ

ZZZ

FREEZE, BATMAN!

GOTHAM PD WOULD BE HAPPIER IF IT WAS *ME* LYING THERE ON THE GROUND.

I WORK *OUTSIDE* THE SYSTEM-- NO OFFICIAL CLEARANCE, NO OVERSIGHT TO MONITOR MY ACTIONS. I DON'T FOLLOW ANY FORM OF *DUE PROCESS.*

CLEAN COPS FEAR ME BECAUSE I DON'T FOLLOW RULES THEY'VE SWORN AN OATH TO...

...DIRTY COPS FEAR ME BECAUSE THEY KNOW ONE DAY I'LL COME FOR THEM.

VICE

03

SWAT

STEP AWAY FROM THE SUSPECT, BATMAN.

NOW!

THE AREA ISN'T *SECURE,* BENNET. KEEP YOUR MEN BACK.

COMMANDER "WILD" BILL BENNET IS SOMEONE I'LL COME FOR ONE DAY.

GPD
1135PD
YOU'VE GOT CIVILIANS GATHERING, BENNET. THE AREA IS ***NOT*** SECURE.
LAST WARNING, BATMAN. BACK OFF OR ***YOU'RE*** GOING DOWN, TOO.
SERGEANT! GET THOSE PEOPLE BACK... AND CONFISCATE THEIR CAMERA PHONES.
CUFF THE BAT IF HE INTERFERES.
YES SIR!
LET'S GO, YOU MURDERING SACK OF SH--
WAIT!
...HHNNNNN.
CLICK
GHKKK!
SLUMP
THERE ARE A ***DOZEN*** DIFFERENT ROUTES THE KILLER CAN TAKE...

...HE CHOOSES A DEAD END.

BLAM BLAM

POK POK

BLAM

BLAM

THE BUILDINGS IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD ARE OLD AND RARELY UP TO CODE.

SPAK

SPAK

PTINNG

SPAK

CHEAPER TO BUY A CORRUPT BUILDING INSPECTOR...

...THAN NEW PIPES AND GAS LINES.

GOTHAM GAS CO.

SPAK

FSSSSSSS

NOT ENOUGH TIME TO SAVE THEM ALL.

22

SPANG

THIS IS SCOTT LEE WITH GOTHAM ONE, REPORTING LIVE FROM THE SCENE OF THIS MORNING'S DEADLY CANAL ST. BLAST.

ONE OFFICER IS CONFIRMED DEAD AND DOZENS MORE POLICE AND CIVILIANS INJURED.

AS EXPECTED, FINGERS ARE BEING POINTED AT EVERYONE FROM THE MAYOR, TO THE DWP, THE POLICE...

...AND TO BATMAN, WHO, ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT FROM SWAT COMMANDER WILLIAM BENNET WAS THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF WHAT LED TO THE EXPLOSIO--

CLICK

THERE YOU ARE, ***MASTER BRUCE...***

JUST A ***HAIRLINE*** FRACTURE. BUT MY SUGGESTION--WHICH YOU WILL IGNORE--IS TO HAVE A FEW DAYS FREE OF ***HITTING*** THINGS.

ALFRED, THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

THE SUBJECTS THAT INTEREST YOU SELDOM DO.

EVIDENCE FROM THE FIRST CRIME SCENE SUGGESTS THE KILLER TOOK AT LEAST A ***GRAZING SHOT*** TO THE HEAD. YET WHEN I FOUGHT HIM LATER, THERE ***WAS*** NO VISIBLE WOUND.

ACCELERATED HEALING ABILITY PERHAPS?

POSSIBLY, BUT THERE WAS NO BLOOD ON HIS FACE OR HIS CLOTHES. AND I DOUBT THIS PARTICULAR KILLER WOULD TAKE THE TIME TO FRESHEN UP BETWEEN MURDERS.

THE KILLER'S BODY WAS NEVER FOUND. I NEED TO GET BACK TO THE EXPLOSION SITE.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR "MEETINGS" RIGHT NOW.

SPEAKING OF EXPLOSIONS, THE WAYNE/SIMMS FOUNDATION HAS CALLED AN EMERGENCY MEETING FOR TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT CONSIDERING THE INJURIES, THE PROPERTY DAMAGE, AND THE PARTIES INVOLVED, BRUCE WAYNE FAILING TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE MIGHT BE VIEWED AS... ***INSENSITIVE?***

DAMAGE CAUSED BY BATMAN AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IS EXACTLY WHAT THE FOUNDATION WAS SET UP FOR, ALFRED. CUT A CHECK.

THERE'S A REASON THE KILLER CHOSE THAT PARTICULAR ESCAPE ROUTE.

SIR--

A ***BIG*** CHECK.

OF COURSE, SIR.

COMPUTER, GENERATE A MAP OF THE CITY. HIGHLIGHT ***BOTH*** CRIME SCENES.

Highlighted.

Bowery

Canal St.

CALCULATE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO.

Three point two miles.

INTER-ESTING. REANALYZE THE BONE FRAGMENT AND TISSUE SAMPLE.

Analysis complete. Results confirmed.

TELL ME, ALFRED...

...HOW IS THE DNA OF BOTH A DEAD TRANSIENT AND ***THE JOKER*** INSIDE THE BODY OF AN UNSTOPPABLE MAN?

PING PING

PERHAPS A CLUE HAS JUST PRESENTED ITSELF?

ACCESS TO THE BAT-SIGNAL IS LIMITED TO A TRUSTED FEW.

TO: BJ
FROM: J

JIM GORDON IS AWAY ON A FISHING TRIP AND THE OTHERS HAVE ALL BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.

THE DRONE SCANS THE BOX USING X-RAY, NEAR-INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY, AND ULTRA-SOUND. IT FINDS NO EXPLOSIVE OR CHEMICAL THREAT INSIDE...

...ONLY ***ORGANIC*** MATERIAL.

I SEND THE DRONES INTO A PERIMETER FORMATION...

...AND ARM THEM.

NO OBVIOUS DETERIORATION OF TISSUE. THE ***APPENDECTOMY*** APPEARS ***RECENT.***

NO REASON TO DOUBT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE NOTE.

(FORMERLY) PROPERTY OF JIM GORDON

HUNGRY?

I BROUGHT A NICE CHIANTI. HEEHEE...

HIYA, BATS.

I'M NOT PAYING FOR THAT.

WHERE'S GORDON?!

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

TELL ME WHERE GORDON IS OR I DROP YOU!

FINE, NEXT TIME YOU PICK THE RESTAURANT!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

KREEESHHH

C'MON, BATS, WE'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR LIKE, WHAT, FOREVER? YOU'RE NOT GONNA DROP ME, SO LAY OFF THE IMPROV AND LET'S STICK TO THE SCRIPT...

...ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE GORDON STARTS LOSING PARTS HE PROBABLY WANTS TO KEEP.

NOW PULL ME UP AND LET'S TALK TURKEY. I'M IN A JAM, BUDDY...AND I NEED YOUR HELP.

I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING AROUND ME--NOT THE RAIN, NOT THE CITY BELOW. THE ONLY SOUND I HEAR IS THE JOKER'S VOICE SCRATCHING INSIDE MY HEAD.

SO REALLY, MY--*OUR*--SITUATION IS THAT SOMEBODY'S TAKEN WHAT *BELONGS* TO *ME.* AND I WANT IT *BACK.*

NOBODY TAKES WHAT'S MINE, BATS. SO YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME FIND THE JERKWEED, AND THEN WE'RE GONNA KICK HIS ASS.

THINK ABOUT IT, OLD CHUM...WITH *YOUR* BRAWN AND *MY* BRAINS WE'D MAKE AN UNBEATABLE TEAM! FORGET THAT TIRED *DYNAMIC* DUO CRAP! WE COULD BE THE *DEADLY DUO!*

C'MON, PARTNER, TIME'S A WASTIN'...

LET'S CALL IT A DEAL AND SHAKE ON IT.

SPTOO!

JIMMY BOY'S WAITIN', BATS...

SPAT

SPIT...

...AND SHAKE.

SPLUT

OH... OH, THAT'S *GOOD*... BUT TO BE CLEAR, *I'M* THE ONE DEALING OUT THE FUNNY ON THIS TEAM, OKAY?

NOW *SHAKE.*

HEY, WATCH THE GRIP THERE, BEFORE YOU--

SNAP

UM, HEH... *OW*... HEH...

YOU KNOW, BATS, I TAKE IT BACK. I KINDA *LIKE* THIS SIDE OF YOU... I MEAN WHO'DA THOUGHT THE *PRINCE* OF *POUT* HAD A SENSE OF HUMOR?

HHHHHHHHHH...

I GOTTA TELL YA, BATS, MY MIND IS *BOGGLED.* I MEAN, CAN YOU *BELIEVE* IT? ME AND YOU, SIDE BY SIDE, THROWING HANDS AT ANY CHUMP THAT GETS IN OUR WAY! MAN, THIS TOWN'S GONNA *GO APE!*

I'M SO *HAPPY* I COULD *CRY!*

TO BE CONTINUED...

INKED PAGES BY

MARC SILVESTRI

BATMAN / JOKER #1 COVER

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BOOK BATMAN / JOKER ISSUE# 1 PG# 5 PAGE

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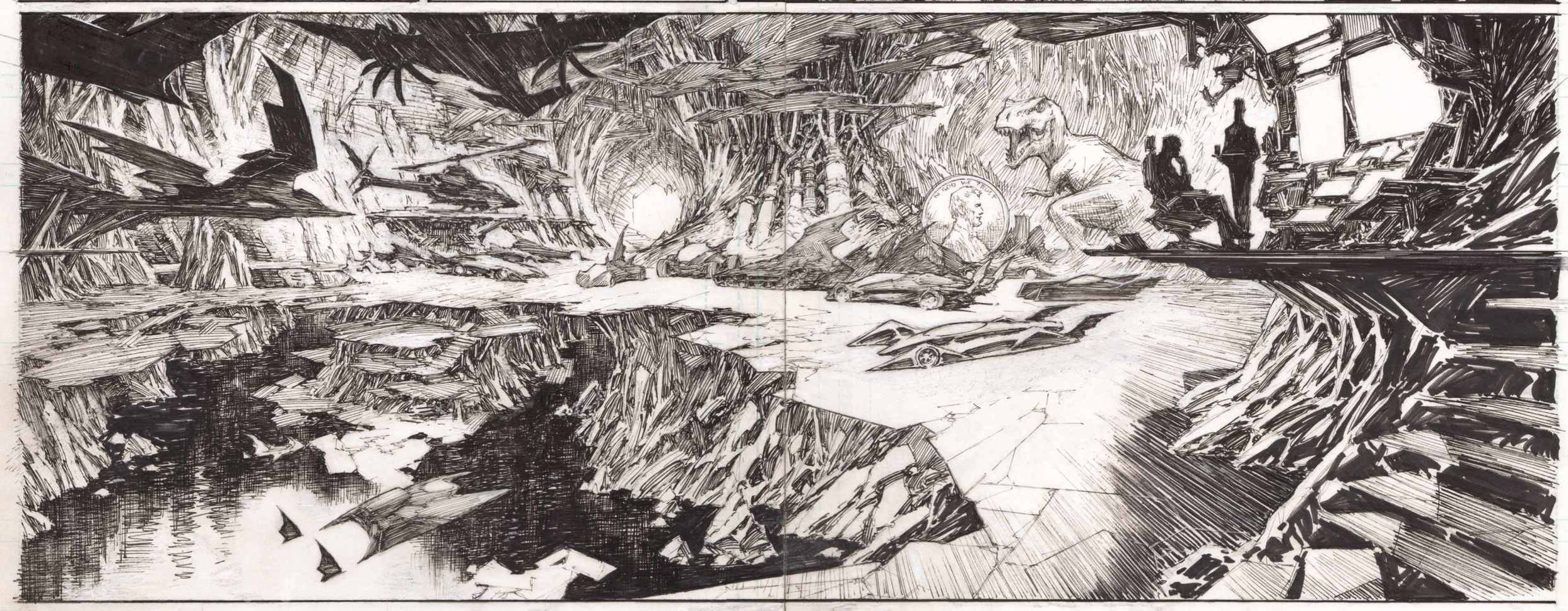

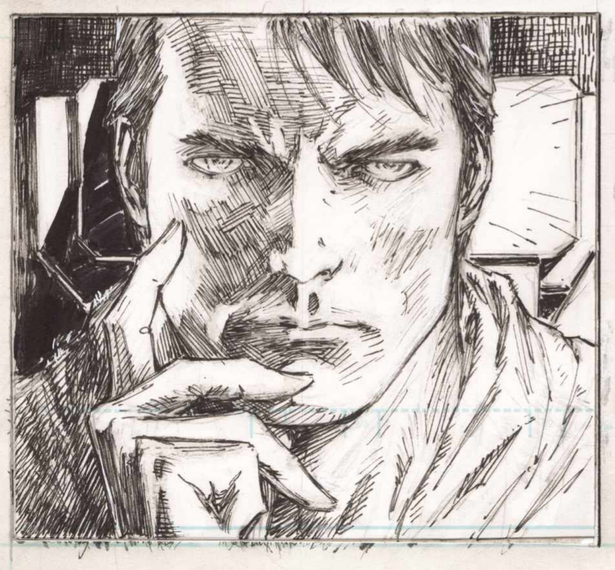

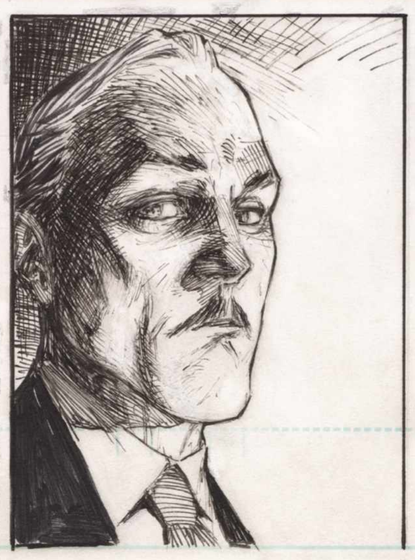

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OUT OF THE SHADOWS OF THE DC UNIVERSE...
MEET THE CRISIS AVERSION TACTICAL SQUAD!

WILDCATS

FROM THE PAGES OF *BATMAN*!

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Art by
STEPHEN SEGOVIA

The WildC.A.T.s are back monthly starting in
NOVEMBER

Don't miss the *Wildstorm 30th Anniversary Special*, also out in November!

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"FORGET THAT DYNAMIC DUO CRAP!
WE COULD BE THE DEADLY DUO!"

-THE JOKER

The Last Kryptonian-DCP